

ABSTRACT

High-power coaxial signal lines, as used for example in television transmitters, employ patch panels with coaxial connections typically 7 cm to 30 cm in diameter to permit rerouting of signals. Like smaller patch panels, these use U-shaped coaxial links; rigid U-links for this application may be a meter between centers and weigh many kilograms. A patch panel handle and latch mechanism includes a gripping handle element integral with a latching element, the combination of which permits the user to grasp a pair of handles, release the latches retaining a U-link, remove the U-link from its position on the patch panel, and reposition the U-link without altering grip. Unlike previous designs, the novel handle/latch mechanism avoids hammers and clamps, as well as avoiding grasping large, fragile, possibly hot or dirty equipment, allowing the task to be performed with integral handles.